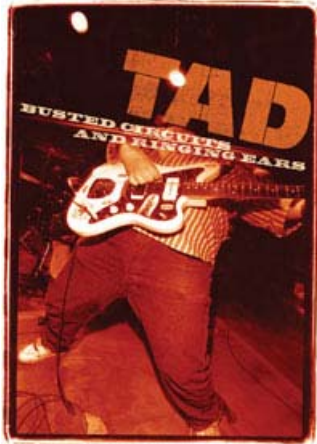


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A Tad Of The Grunge Era Exposed

2008-01-09 12:05:20.550,
 Story by: Eric Davidson

Ironically named '90s grunge band Tad will be releasing their first DVD, *Busting Circuits And Ringing Ears*, through MVD on February 19. The 93-minute documentary on the physically and sonically hefty band features loads of archival footage, interviews with grunge not-as-heavyweights like Krist Novoselic (Nirvana), Chad Channing (Nirvana), Kim Thayil (Soundgarden) and Mark Arm (Mudhoney), and some rare pictures from the group's 1989 European tour when Nirvana was their opening act.

Tad would eventually admit, and most who lived in Seattle knew, that they weren't exactly the hardened, toothless lumberjacks of their press clippings, but they worked the shtick like pros through an often frustrating 12-year career. One of many controversies that dogged them was when a label dumped them for using a picture of Bill Clinton smoking pot for a tour poster.

Despite the doughy dummy image, Tad worked with alt-era biggies like Butch Vig, Steve Albini, Jack Endino and J Mascis; released Sub Pop singles before most had even heard of Nirvana; and singer Tad Doyle had the best scene in that *Singles* movie that was supposed to be the defining slacker flick. In ways, Tad was a defining grunge band. Though their records sometimes fell short in the songwriting department, they were always garbage truck stuffed with fat riffs and monster drums, making as large an elephant stomp racket as that flanneled moment in time produced.

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